

◆ Where are Maryland's trauma centers located?

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center
at University of Maryland Hospital
Baltimore MD

Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore MD

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
Baltimore MD

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
Baltimore MD

Suburban Hospital
Bethesda MD

Prince George's Hospital Center
Cheverly MD

Western Maryland Health Systems
Memorial Trauma Center
Cumberland MD

Washington County Hospital Center
Hagerstown MD

Peninsula Regional Medical Center
Salisbury MD

Children's National Medical Center
Washington DC

◆ How will the funds be administered?

Maryland lawmakers designated the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) to administer and oversee the Fund.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

ON THE MARYLAND

TRAUMA PHYSICIAN SERVICES FUND

Phone 410-764-3374

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Baltimore, Maryland 21215

www.mhcc.state.md.us



Maryland Health Care Commission

"Established to streamline Maryland's health care regulatory system in a manner such that a single state health policy can be better articulated, coordinated, and implemented."

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Health Services Cost Review Commission

"Working together, the HSCRC and Maryland's hospitals have successfully slowed the rate of increase in hospital costs that Marylanders must pay."

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What is the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund?

**For Practice Administrators
and Medical Billing Staff**



Updated November 2005

◆ What are the rates of trauma deaths in the country?

Trauma kills more people between the ages of 1 and 44 than any other disease or illness. Nearly 100,000 people of all ages in the United States die from trauma each year and roughly half of them in motor vehicle traffic related injuries.

◆ What is trauma?

Trauma is defined as a bodily injury, wound, or shock that involves potential loss of life or limb. Trauma affects more people than heart disease and cancer combined and is the leading cause of death among Americans under age 40.

◆ What is the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund?

The *Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund* is an initiative resulting from legislation passed in the 2003 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Fund will reimburse trauma physicians for trauma care provided to uninsured patients and Medicaid enrollees, and reimburse trauma centers for the on-call costs of having trauma physicians available to provide care.

In 2002

- ◆ The Maryland State Police Medevac helicopters transported 5,351 patients to trauma centers.
- ◆ Trooper 2, based at Andrews Air Force Base in Camp Springs, MD, was named the busiest Medevac helicopter in America transporting 1,105 trauma patients.

◆ Why is funding for trauma so important?

Trauma physicians are obligated to treat any and all victims who enter a trauma facility, even those unable to pay. Too often, trauma physicians are not paid for the late nights and long hours devoted to trauma patient care. If reimbursement sources are not made available, it is likely that Maryland will not have physicians willing to commit to this intense specialty care. Washington County Hospital Trauma Center was forced to temporarily close during the summer of 2002 due to uncertainty about physician reimbursement.

Did you know?

Our region has the third-worst traffic congestion in the country after Los Angeles and the San Francisco/Oakland areas.

Approximately 690,000 Marylanders have no health insurance.

◆ Where will the funding come from?

Since July 1, 2003, a \$5.00 surcharge (or \$2.50 per year) has been applied to the 2-year vehicle registration fee for Maryland motorists.

◆ Does trauma care receive funds from MVA renewal fees already?

Yes, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) funds are supplemented through a surcharge on motor vehicle registrations for certain classes of vehicles. ***This revenue is exclusively dedicated to preserve the infrastructure of the Emergency Services (EMS) System, including training, helicopters, equipment, communication, and oversight. These funds do not cover physician or hospital expenses associated with trauma care.***

◆ What is the definition of an uninsured patient?

An uninsured or uncompensated care patient has no private health insurance (which includes HMO, PPO, or Indemnity), no Medicare Part B coverage, no VA health benefits, no military health benefits, no worker's compensation coverage, and is not eligible for Medicaid.

◆ Are all physicians eligible to receive funds?

No, only trauma surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, critical care physicians, emergency medicine physicians, and anesthesiologists who provide care in a trauma center to trauma patients on the Maryland Trauma Registry can apply for reimbursement from the Fund.

◆ What is the "Maryland Trauma Registry"?

The **Maryland Trauma Registry** is an inventory maintained by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). MIEMSS is the lead organization responsible for coordinating Maryland's statewide emergency medical services by:

- ◆ Providing data for injury surveillance, analysis, and prevention programs.
- ◆ Monitoring and evaluating the outcome of care of major trauma patients.
- ◆ Ensuring compliance with state standards for trauma care.
- ◆ Providing information for resource planning, system design, and management.
- ◆ Providing a resource for research and education.